

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Claims 1-10 (canceled)

11. (currently amended) A multi-part composite valve (1) for an internal combustion engine, wherein a steel valve shaft (2) and a Ti-Al valve plate (4) are separately produced and joined to each other in an overlap area (6), wherein the valve plate (4) is cast on-to the valve shaft (2), and wherein the valve shaft (2) in the overlap transition area (6) is provided, prior to the casting-on, at least partially with at least one intermediate layer (8) comprised of an Ag-base alloy and/or Ni-base alloy and/or Cu-base alloy or is constituted on the basis of a metal oxide, which subsequent to the casting-on is material-to-material bonded both to the valve shaft (2) and the valve plate (4) in the manner of a chemical bond.
12. (currently amended) The valve according to claim 11 [[1]], wherein the intermediate layer (8) is in the form of a gradient layer (10) or multi-strata layer (12).
13. (currently amended) The valve according to claim 11 [[1]], wherein the valve shaft (2) in the overlap area (6) exhibits macroscopic undercuts or recesses (14).
14. (currently amended) The valve according to claim 11 [[1]], wherein the valve shaft (2) is mechanically or chemically roughened in the overlap area (6) for formation of microscopic undercuts or recesses (14).
15. (canceled)
16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) The valve according to Claim 11 ~~[[1]]~~, wherein the at least one intermediate layer (8) comprises an Ag-based alloy and/or Ni-based alloy and/or Ti-based alloy and/or a Cu-based alloy.
18. (currently amended) The valve according to claim 11 ~~[[1]]~~, wherein the at least one intermediate layer (8) is constituted on the basis of a metal oxide.
19. (currently amended) The valve according to claim 11 ~~[[1]]~~, wherein the intermediate layer (8) prior to casting-on of the valve plate (4) exhibits an open porosity of between 1% and 75%.